

# Living And Working Conditions Of Destitute Widows In Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu

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## Abstract

It is an choice. It is an inevitable in life of every married woman. In society like India, the social norms governing them at various stages of their lives, encountered with fundamental changes and challenges towards emotional loss, social – rituals survival, disturbances, exclusion, discrimination etc... The decision-making process unless they have some hold on the economic resources and it is observed that they encounter financial constraints. The living and working conditions of destitute widows reveals that many destitute widows lead challenging life with varied implications such as life of dependency, totally or partially, and lack of control over the household and working places for their lives in the society. This study paper focus on the living and working conditions such as married and widowhood life, problems and difficulties faced position and nature of work, they were assigned inter-personal relationships with colleagues, job security, working environment, welfare measures and quality of work life.

**Keywords:** Destitute widows, Living and working conditions

## Conceptual Framework

The word vidhava is derived from a root like Teutonic wid, to lack, Latin videre, to separate as in di-videre, and Sanskrit vidh, to be bereft (**Dutta, 1938**). The ordinary term for a widow in India is “vidhwa” which originates from the Sanskrit word “vidh” which means “to be destitute”. Widow is a woman who has lost her spouse was it is a very old word which can be traced beyond the Vedic language to Indo-European origins and exists with little modification in most of the languages of the Indo- European family.

. In India, no longer throw themselves on the funeral pyres of their husbands, but life for them can still be deprived. The experience of widowhood varies across customs and time periods. They are still subject to patriarchal traditions, religious legislations and extensive prejudicial inheritant rights. Many families of different communities in India still eschew and abandon widows. In general, in India widowhood is a very insubstantial period in the life of a

woman, underlined by notable impoverishment, lack of family support and a prominent risk of mortality (**Shivalika Verma, 2020**).

Under ancient law, widows came to be regarded as inauspicious and had to suffer great disabilities. Many widows committed 'Sati' (community suicide) voluntarily to avoid inhuman sufferings at the hands of their relations including sons. They did not receive any sympathy from society. The greatest danger that can overtake a woman is widowhood. Within twelve days of widowhood, the sindoor and bindi in her forehead are smudged; her bangles, nose-ring, the coloured sari and mangalasutra were removed. Her long black tresses are cropped short. Among the orthodox Brahmin widows, in the south, they must shave their hair in the heads. They have to wear white sarees instead of her coloured one. After that she will be expected to give up eating 'hot' foods a widow is ill-women. She will not be allowed to attend in any auspicious functions like marriages in the South and considered as inauspicious and to remain celibate, devout and loyal to her husband"

"A widow is supposed to be disfigured; her ornaments are removed, her heads will be shaved, and she has to dress white sari. (**Chen, 1998: 26**), They are twice born upper castes are discriminated more within their families and castes and the restriction placed on their personal attire like dress, ornamentation, hair style, food etc., is very rigid and oppressive. Further, their presence is prohibited at socio cultural and religious ceremonies. The most important prohibition is that they are not permitted to remarry. In North India the upper caste widows seem to be becoming destitute running away from their homes. Once widowed, women in India often confront a denial of inheritance and land rights, degrading and life threatening mourning and burial rites and other forms of widow abuse. Widows are often evicted from their homes and physically abused some even killed even by members of their own family. In many countries, a woman's social status is inextricably linked to her husband's, so that when her husband dies, a woman no longer has a place in society. To regain social status, widows are expected to marry any one whom she loves or the one came forward to care her and her sons/daughters. For many, the loss of a husband is only the first trauma in a long-term ordeal.

### **Socio - Cultural - religious**

Likewise, there are different categories of widows the aged, the destitute, the young and even widows of tender age etc., and each category of widows has its own problems and solution to solve the problems may also differ from one category to the other. Another process which has been noticed by various social scientists in the country is the process of Sanskritisation among the lower castes and the consequence of which is increasing rigid attitude towards the widows in these caste. Sanskritisation means adopting the rituals and customs of the twice born castes by the people belonging to lower castes, one of it is prohibiting the remarriage of widows. Simultaneously, one can also notice the opposite of it i.e., relaxation of attitude towards widows among the upper classes in metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi, etc., Because of the above mentioned variations of the status and nature of widows in this country there is a need to understand the problems of widows at segregated level. This means besides, the assessment of gender specific needs, the assessment of specific needs of the widows is necessary to understand the position of the widows and to empower them.

### **Economic**

On the other hand, widows among the lower castes suffer with different type of disabilities. Among the lower castes widow remarriage though is not prohibited yet there is some aversion towards it. One important aspect among the lower castes which cause hardship to the widows is the type of family in which they live. Nuclear families are the norm and the labour of husband and wife complement each other in earning livelihood and in looking after the dependent children. When husband dies there is no one coming to the economic rescue of the widow, not because her parents and other relatives are unwilling but their economic position usually is none to good since most of them depend on wage labour. Economic security for the widows and her infants among lower castes is the most important problem rather than socio cultural discrimination. Further the elderly and the young widows as they grow into old age are virtually abandoned in many cases and suffer with untold miseries and deprivations.

### **Statement of the problem**

“Empowerment of Women” is the slogan and rhetoric today, particularly in the third world countries. U.N.O and other world organizations and NGOS` despite their best efforts are unable to achieve gender equality, through the empowerment of women. But empowerment of widows is least care able and simply ignored due to both cultural and religious restrictions as long as religious and cultural construction decides the way of life of widows the demolition of restrictions and construction of standardized. India is home to an life in lightly questionable and empowerment also can't be expectable in any countries. According to the 2011 census, of 5.2% of the widows were in India and Tamil Nadu census 7.6% against the total women population which highlighted more when compare with other states of India. Among the separated category Widowed/Divorced/Separated (W/D/S) constitute of 12.6%. This is also the 25 highest percentages in India. Hence, it is essential to conduct an in-depth study in this regard. The destitute widows condition in the study area (Villages in Nagapattinam District) is much cruel than the other districts. In the name of rituals, the Hindu widows have to follow the strict principles and regulations of the villages The traditional framed terms and conditions for the destitute widows for the social and cultural life and they strictly watching their movements and personal activities in the villages were still worst towards widows. They were mostly illiterates and semi-literates and had studied upto 12<sup>th</sup> standard of their schooling and unable to get good jobs in the Government and private sectors Mostly, they are working as coolies and offered poor or marginal wages. They are unable to raise their voice towards eight hours working and good wages and other employment avenues are very less when compare with other districts. Their rights are highly exploited by the entrepreneur and landlords. This leads to poor economic condition and they are unable to lead a standard life on par with the other females. At this juncture, the researcher conducted a study on with the following objectives.

### **Objectives**

- i) To describe the socio-demographic profile of the destitute widows;
- ii) to analyse the living and working condition of the respondents;

iii) to elicit suitable suggestions to overcome their difficulties and lead safe life of the destitute widows.

### Operational Definition

**Widows:** Widows are those whose husband have died, irrespective of their age of widowhood and have not married again.

**Living conditions:** Circumstances affect the way in which destitute widows live, especially with regard to their well-being.

**Working conditions:** The working environment and aspects of destitute widows' terms and conditions of employment. This covers such matters as: the organization of work and work activities; training, skills, and employability; health, safety, and well-being; and working time and work-life balance.

**Quality of work life:** it refers to the physical mental well-being of the destitute widows in their work life is studied through the determination of quality of work life.

### Methodology

Since, this is a pioneer research in the field of living and working conditions of destitute widows, the researcher adopted an exploratory research design to study this problem so as to fulfil the research gap and suggest for suitable solutions. The present study was conducted based on the primary data collected through field survey with the well-structured interview schedule to collect the primary data with the application of purposive sampling techniques in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu. The primary data was collected between the periods of August to November 2021 and analysed with the help of using SPSS package to draw suitable statistical analysis which are as follows:

**Table – 1 Distribution of the Respondents by their Age, Religion and Caste**

S. No	Age	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Below 25	3	3%
2.	26-30	15	15%
3.	31-35	17	17%
4.	36-40	21	21%
5.	Above 40	44	44%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
S. No	Religion	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Hinduism	49	49%
2.	Islam	15	15%
3.	Christianity	36	36%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

S. No	Caste	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Backward Classes	47	47%
2.	Scheduled Castes	31	31%
3.	Scheduled Tribes	12	12%
4.	Most backward Classes	7	7%
5.	Other Castes	3	3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Source: Computed from Primary data

### Age

The age plays a pivotal role to determine one's status and role in the society. It is seen from the above table show that out of the total 100 respondents, less than half 44 (44%) of the respondents belong to the age group of above 40 years; followed by that less than one fourth 21 (21%), 17 (17%), 15 (15%) and 3 (3%) of them were age group of 36-40 years, 31-35 years, 26-30 years and below 25 years respectively.

### Religion

It is obvious from the study of the data given in the above table that out of the total 100 respondents, nearly half 49 (49%) of the respondents followed the Hinduism (Hindus) religion; followed by that more than one fourth 36 (36%) and less than one third 15 (15%) of them were followed the Christianity (Christian) and Islam (Muslim) respectively.

### Caste

It is clear from the study of the data given in the above table reveals that the less than half 47 (47%) of the respondents were belong to Backward Classes; followed by that less than one third 31 (31%), less than one third 12 (12%), few 7 (7%) and very few 3 (3%) of them were belongs to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward Classes and Other Castes respectively.

**Table – 2 Distribution of the Respondents by their Educational Status**

S. No	Educational Status	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Research Degree	3	3%
2.	Post Graduate Degree	13	13%
3.	Under Graduate	15	15%
4.	Technical Degree	13	13%
5.	Higher Secondary Level Education	19	19%
6.	Diploma	5	5%
7.	High School Education	11	11%
8.	Middle School Education	9	9%
9.	Primary School Education	7	7%
10.	Illiterate	5	5%

	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
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**\* Source: Computed from Primary data**

### Educational Status

The above table reflects that the educational status of the respondents. Out of 100 respondents less than one third 19 (19%) of them were studied higher secondary level education; followed by that less than one third 15 (15%), 13 (13%), 13 (13%), 11 (11%), few 9 (9%), 7 (7%), 5 (5%), 5 (5%) and very few 3 (3%) of them were studied under graduates such as B.A., B.SC., and B.Com etc; post graduate degrees such as M.A., M.SC., and M.Com etc; technical degrees such as medical, engineering etc; high school education; middle school education; primary school education; diploma; illiterate and research degrees such as Ph.D., M. Phil., respectively.

More than half 56 (56%) of the respondents had given importance to an education; followed by that less than one third 31 (31%) and little 13 (13%) of them had given importance to an education and had not given importance to an education due to financial problems, family restrictions respectively.

**Table – 3 Distribution of the Respondents by their Occupation and Husband’s Occupation**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>No. of Respondents (N*=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (100%)</b>
1.	Teacher	3	3%
2.	Nurse	6	6%
3.	Clerk	3	3%
4.	Typist	12	12%
5.	Accountant	16	16%
6.	Fourth grade employee	4	4%
7.	Factory labourer	19	19%
8.	Cleaner	10	10%
9.	Sweeper	9	9%
10.	Worker engaged in agriculture	7	7%
11.	Domestic servant	11	11%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Husband’s Occupation</b>	<b>No. of Respondents (N*=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (100%)</b>
1.	Daily wages	41	41%
2.	Carpenter	3	3%
3.	Business Men	5	5%
4.	Electrician	7	7%
5.	Mechanic	6	6%
6.	Welder	8	8%
7.	Caters	2	2%
8.	Supervisor	11	11%

9.	Tailor	10	10%
10	Manager	7	7%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Source: Computed from Primary data

### Nature of Occupation

The above table reveals that less than one third 19 (19%) of the respondents were working as factory labourers; followed by that 16 (16%), 12 (12%), few 11 (11%), 10 (10%), 9 (9%), 9 (9%), 7 (7%), 6 (6%), 4 (4%), 3 (3%), 3 (3%) and very few 2 (2%) of them were working as accountants in government and private bank, grocery shop, shopping mart, textile shops; typists in government sectors, court, VAO office and taluk office; domestic servants, cleaners in colleges and schools; sweepers in shopping mall, textiles show rooms, marriage hall, private schools and colleges; workers engaged in agriculture, nurses in government hospitals, private eye hospitals, nursing home and home care; fourth grade employees, clerks in Private bank, taluk and VAO office, teachers in government and private high and higher secondary schools respectively.

### Husband's Occupation

The above table shows that less than half 41 (41%) of the respondents' husband were working as daily wages; followed by that less than one third 11 (11%), few 10 (10%), 8 (8%), 7 (7%), 7 (7%), 6 (6%), 5 (5%), 3 (3%) and very few 2 (2%) of them were working as supervisors in garments, textiles shops and industries; tailoring works in garments, tailoring shops and own tailoring shops; welders in industries; managers in private bank, garments and textiles shops; two wheeler and four wheeler mechanic working in car and bike service center and own mechanic shops; business men such as textiles, electrical and electronic parts, boutique, hotels, owning a bakeries, selling handcrafted items; carpenter and caters catering food respectively.

**Table – 4 Distribution of the Respondents by their Monthly Income**

S. No	Monthly Income	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Rs.5000-8,000	52	52%
2.	Rs. 9000-13,000	31	31%
3.	Rs. 14,000-18,000	10	10%
4.	Above Rs.19,000	7	7%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Source: computed from primary data

### Monthly Income

It is evident from the above table that more than half 52 (52%) of the respondents' monthly income between Rs.5000-8,000/-; followed by that more than one third 31 (31%), few 10 (10%) and 7 (7%) of them were Rs. 9000-13,000, Rs. 14,000-18,000 and above Rs.19,000 respectively. From the above discussion it reflects that the varying economic situation of the respondents and cannot have their days meals without work.

**Table – 5 Distribution of the Respondents by their Housing Particulars**

S. No	Type of House	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Hut	29	29%
2.	Tiled	42	42%
3.	Pucca	18	18%
4.	Destitute Homes	11	11%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
S. No	Nature of House	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Own	61	61%
2.	Rented	30	30%
3.	Leased	9	9%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Source: computed from primary data

### Housing Particulars

As far as their types of house is concerned that less than half 42 (42%) of the respondents were living in tiled houses; followed by that more than one fourth 29 (29%), less than one third 18 (18%) and 11 (11%) of them were living in hut, pucca and destitute homes respectively.

Out of 100 respondents the majority 61 (61%) of the respondents were living at their own houses and the remaining more than one fourth 30 (30%) and few 9 (9%) of them were living in rental and leased houses respectively.

**Table – 6 Distribution of the Respondents by their Age at marriage and widow**

S. No	Age at Marriage	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Below 18	47	47%
2.	19-24	35	35%
3.	25-29	18	18%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
S. No	Age at widow	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	19-27	22	22%
2.	28-31	61	61%
3.	32-34	17	17%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Source: Computed from Primary data

### Age at Marriage

The above table shows that out of the total 100 respondents, less than half 47 (47%) of the respondents had married at the age of below 18 years; followed by that more than one fourth 35 (35%) and less than one fourth 18 (18%) of them had married at the age of 19-24 years and 25-29 years respectively.

### Age at Widow

Of the total respondents, the majority 61 (61%) of the respondents had become widow at the age of 28-31; followed by that less than one fourth 22 (22%) and 17 (17%) of them had become widow at the age of 19-27 years and 32-34 years respectively. It is understood that due to natural calamity called tsunami also became cause for the stigma of women as destitute.

**Table – 7 Distribution of the Respondents by their Living and Working Conditions**

S. No	Living conditions	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Living for alone	56	56%
2.	Living with children	44	44%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
S. No	Types of Employment	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Temporary	65	65%
2.	Permanent	26	26%
3.	Casual	9	9%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Source: computed from primary data

### Living and Working Conditions

Of the total respondents, more than half 56 (56%) of the respondents were living for alone in houses and destitute home due to childless, abandoned by parents, in-laws, married and unmarried sons and daughters and the remaining less than half 44 (44%) of them were living with children without any support from parents and in-laws in the study area.

Out of 300 respondents, the majority 65 (65%) of the respondents were working for temporary in private sectors; followed by that more than one fourth 26 (26%) and less than one fourth 9 (9%) of them were working for permanent and casual in government and private sectors in the study area respectively.

**Table – 8 Distribution of the Respondents by their Level of Living and Working Conditions**

S. No	Level of Living conditions	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Satisfied	24	24%
2.	Fairly satisfied	70	70%
3.	Dissatisfied	6	6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>Level of Working conditions</b>		

1.	Satisfied	16	16%
2.	Fairly satisfied	78	78%
3.	Dissatisfied	6	6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*Source: computed from primary data**

### **Level of Living conditions**

Of the total respondents, the majority 69 (69%) of the respondents' living conditions were good; followed by that more than one fourth 29 (29%) and few 2 (2%) of them living conditions were average and bad respectively.

Out of 100 respondents less than three fourth 70 (70%) of the respondents fairly satisfied with living conditions; followed by that nearly one fourth 24 (24%) and few 6 (6%) of them satisfied and dissatisfied with living conditions in the study area respectively.

### **Level of working conditions**

Out of 100 respondents more than half 56 (56%) of the respondents' working conditions average; followed by that more than one fourth 39 (39%) and 5 (5%) of them working conditions were good and bad respectively.

Of the total respondents more than three fourth 78 (78%) of the respondents fairly satisfied with working conditions; followed by that less than one fourth 16 (16%) and few 6 (6%) of them satisfied and dissatisfied with working conditions in the study area respectively.

**Table – 9 Distribution of the Respondents by their Interpersonal-relationships with Colleagues**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Interpersonal-relationships with Colleagues</b>	<b>No. of Respondents (N*=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (100%)</b>
1.	Good	22	22%
2.	Average	76	76%
3.	Bad	2	2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Problems and Difficulties</b>	<b>No. of Respondents (N*=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (100%)</b>
1.	Sometimes	81	81%
2.	Occasionally	19	19%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*Source: computed from primary data**

### **Interpersonal-relationships with colleagues**

Of the total respondents, more than three fourth 76 (76%) of the respondents' interpersonal relationship with colleagues were average; followed by that less than one fourth 22 (22%) and few 2 (2%) of them were good and bad relationship with colleagues respectively.

The above table reflects that more than one fourth 37 (37%) of the respondents felt that uncomfortable with colleagues; followed by that more than one fourth 28 (28%) and 32 (32%) of them felt that lack of freely discussion, lack of support and dislike the work with colleagues at the working places in the study area.

Out of 100 total respondents, vast majority 81 (81%) of the respondents had faced the problems and difficulties sometimes by colleagues and superiors in the working places and the remaining less than one fourth 19 (19%) of them had faced the problems and difficulties by colleagues and superiors occasionally in the working places.

**Table – 10 Distribution of the Respondents by their Quality of Work Life**

S. No	Job Involvement	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Good	72	72%
2.	Moderate	24	24%
3.	Bad	4	4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>
S. No	Job Satisfaction	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Satisfied	35	35%
2.	Fairly satisfied	46	46%
3.	Dissatisfied	19	19%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*Source: computed from primary data**

### **Job Involvement**

Of the total respondents, less than three fourth 72 (72%) of the respondents were good involvement in the job; followed by that nearly one fourth 24 (24%) and few 4 (4%) of them were moderate and bad involvement in the job respectively.

### **Job Satisfaction**

Out of 100 respondents less than half 46 (46%) of the respondents fairly satisfied with job; followed by that more than one fourth 35 (35%) and less than one fourth 19 (19%) of them satisfied and dissatisfied with job respectively.

**Table – 11 Distribution of the Respondents by their Problems and Difficulties at Working Places**

S. No	Problems and Difficulties At Working Places	No. of Respondents (N*=100)	Percentage (100%)
1.	Uncomfortable with working environment	63	63%
2.	Unequally salary	72	72%

3.	Discrimination	87	87%
4.	Lack of support from colleagues/co-workers	36	36%
5.	Felt insecure	12	12%
6.	Financial Needs	45	45%
7.	Risk of Illness and Injury	49	49%
8.	Over crowd and dirty	52	52%
9.	Irritating place	32	32%
10.	Noise and Illumination	21	21%
11.	Lack of freedom	39	39%
12.	Too challenging	12	12%
13.	Lack of opportunities to improve skills	20	20%
14.	Neglect health due to job	47	47%
15.	Salary not received within date	37	37%
16.	Work load	42	42%
17.	Lack of interest to work	34	34%
18.	Lack of appreciation	18	18%
19.	Lack of improvement in wage structures	68	68%

**\*Source: computed from primary data**

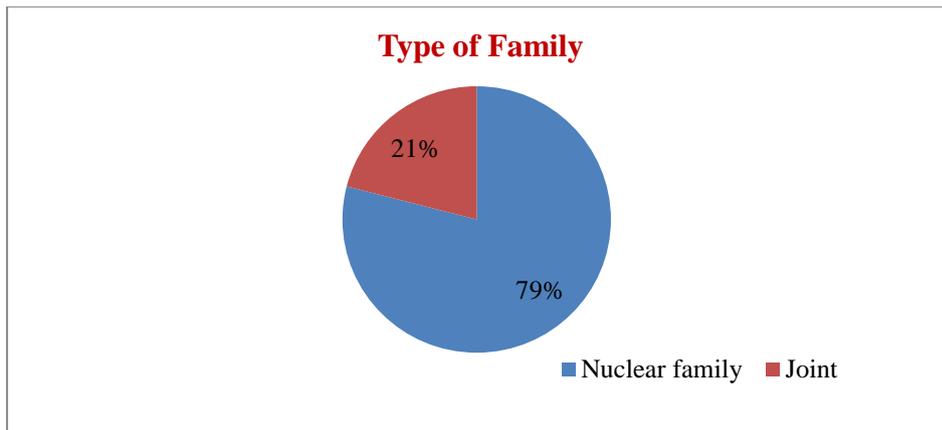
**\*\***

## Multiple Responses

### Problems and Difficulties in Working Places

The above table express that the majority 63 (63%) of the respondents felt that uncomfortable with working environment; followed by that less than three fourth 72 (72%), vast majority 87 (87%), more than one fourth 36 (36%), less than one fourth 12 (12%), less than half 45 (45%), 49 (49%), more than half 52 (52%), more than one fourth 32 (32%), less than one fourth 21 (21%), more than one fourth 39 (39%), less than one fourth 12 (12%), 20 (20%), less than half 47 (47%), more than one fourth 37 (37%), less than half 42 (42%), more than one fourth 34 (34%), less than one fourth, 18 (18%) and majority 68 (68%) of them faced the problems and difficulties such as unequally salary to the work, discrimination to provide overtime work, lack of support from colleagues/co-workers, felt insecure, financial needs were fulfilled inadequately, risk of illness and injuries, over crowd and dirties, irritating places, noise and illumination of working places irritated, lack of freedom to take decision for work and implement them, too challenging and trying the limit of ability, lack of opportunities to improve skills, neglect health due to job, salary not received within date and production shortage reflects with salaries, overwork loads, lack of interest to work, lack of appreciation for better work, lack of improvement in wage structures in the working places respectively.

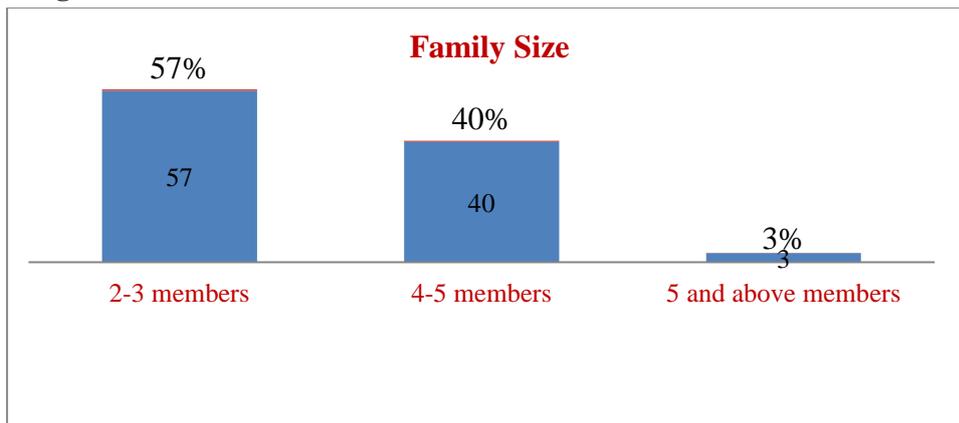
### Diagram: 1



**\* Source: Computed from Primary data**

From the chart the researcher explains while analyzing the more than three fourth 79 (79%) of the respondents were living for nuclear families and the remaining less than one fourth 21 (21%) of them were living for joint families in the study area.

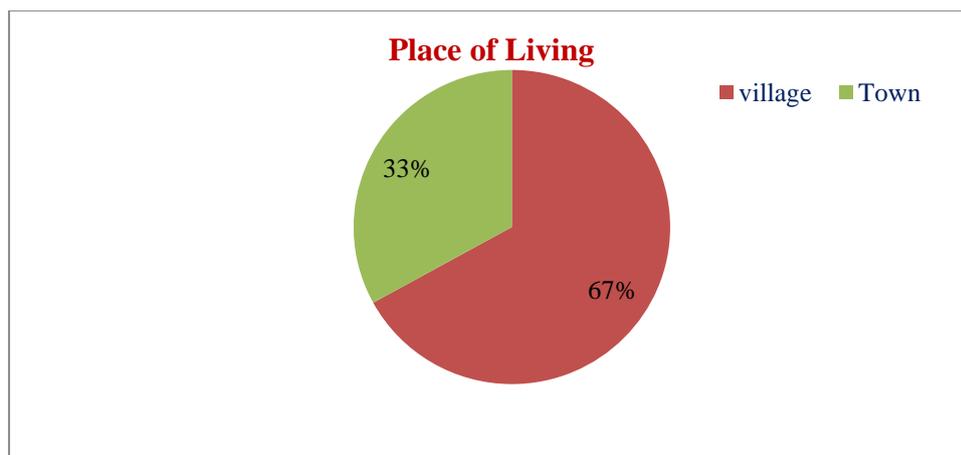
**Diagram: 2**



**\* Source: Computed from Primary data**

The above diagram expressed about the Family size of the respondents. More than half 57 (57%) of the respondents' family members were 2-3 members; followed by that more than one third 40 (40%) and very few 3 (3%) of them family members were 4-5 members; 5 and above members respectively.

**Diagram: 3**



**\* Source: Computed from Primary data**

The above diagram expressed about the place of living of the respondents most of them were coming from all the villages and towns in the study area. The majority 67 (67%) of the respondents were living in villages and the remaining more than one fourth 33 (33%) of them were from towns respectively.

## **Summary of Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion**

### **Socio-Demographic characteristics**

- ❖ The age plays a pivotal role to determine one's status and role in the society. Out of the total 100 respondents, less than half 44 (44%) of the respondents belong to the age group of above 40 years; nearly half 49 (49%) of the respondents were Hindu religion; less than half 47 (47%) of the respondents were belong to Backward classes.
- ❖ Less than one third 19 (19%) of the respondents were studied higher secondary level education; more than half 56 (56%) of them had given more importance to an education; more than half 52 (52%) of their monthly income between Rs.5000-8,000/-. The varying economic situation of the respondents and cannot have their days meals without work.
- ❖ Less than half 42 (42%) of the respondents were living in tiled houses; and the majority 61 (61%) of the respondents were living at their own houses.
- ❖ The majority 67 (67%) of the respondents were living in rural areas; more than three fourth 79 (79%) of them were living for nuclear families; more than half 57 (57%) of the respondents' family members were 2-3 members. More than half 56 (56%) of them were living for individual; the majority 67 (67%) of them had one brother; more than one third 39 (39%) of them had two sisters in the study.

### **Living and working conditions**

- ❖ Less than one third 19 (19%) of the respondents were working as factory labourers; less than half 41 (41%) of their husbands were working as daily wages; less than half 52 (46%) of their monthly income between Rs.5000-8,000/- and the varying economic situation of them were not having their days meals without work.

- ❖ More than half 53 (53%) of the respondents' income enough to meet their day to day requirements in the life; less than half 41 (41%) of their economic conditions were average; majority 63 (63%) of them were some accumulation wealth for the future; more than half 66 (66%) of them were not taken loans and borrowed from bank and others.
- ❖ The majority 67 (67%) of the respondents were living in Rural areas; More than three fourth 79 (79%) of them were living for nuclear families; More than half 57 (57%) of their family members were 2-3 members.
- ❖ More than half 56 (56%) of the respondents were living for alone; majority 67 (67%) of the respondents had one brother; more than one third 39 (39%) of them had two sisters; As far as their types of house is concerned that the majority 42 (42%) of them were living in Tiled house; Out of 100 respondents majority 61 (61%) of them were living at their own houses; more than half 67 (67%) of them were one water tap facility at their home.
- ❖ More than half 61 (61%) of the respondents were not financially depend on anybody; more than half 56 (56%) of them were meet their economic needs from self-earnings such as working in government and private, interest of savings from bank and rental from house; significance 96 (96%) of them were savings account in the private and government bank; less than half 43 (43%) of them were savings account in the post office and significance 98 (98%) of them was not financially depending on others because they were earning income from work.
- ❖ The majority 65 (65%) of the respondents were working for temporary in private sectors; vast majority 81 (81%) of them were going by bus; the majority 68 (68%) of them work load were stressful; less than three fourth 71 (71%) of them were frustrated with job sometimes; less than half 44 (44%) of them job were secured.

#### **Level of Living and working conditions**

- ❖ The majority 69 (69%) of the respondents' living conditions were good; less than three fourth 70 (70%) of the respondents fairly satisfied with living conditions; more than half 56 (56%) of the respondents' working conditions average and more than three fourth 78 (78%) of the respondents fairly satisfied with working conditions.

#### **Married life**

- ❖ Nearly half 49 (49%) of the respondents had got married within same caste; less than half 47 (47%) of them had married at the age of below 18 years; less than half 40 (40%) of them had enjoyed their married life for ten years; the majority 61 (61%) of them had become widow at the age of 28-31; and the majority 61 (61%) of them had 10-14 years old male boys and girls children.
- ❖ Less than half 44 (44%) of the respondents were the time of their marriage paid dowry for cash; less than one third 31 (31%) of them were causes of their husband's death excessive drinking; less than one third 31 (31%) of them were living for individual after widowhood.
- ❖ Majority 67 (67%) of the respondents were the source of their income wholly depend on husband's income before widowhood; the majority 70 (70%) of them income source were employed after widowhood; the majority 61 (61%) of them were source of their help from parents immediately after the death of their husband; the majority 60 (60%) of them were travelling by bus to work place in the study area.

### **Interpersonal-relationships with colleagues**

- ❖ More than three fourth 76 (76%) of the respondents' interpersonal relationship with colleagues were average; more than one fourth 37 (37%) of them felt that uncomfortable with colleagues and vast majority 81 (81%) of them had faced the problems and difficulties sometimes by colleagues and superiors in the working places.

### **Welfare Measures**

The majority 62 (62%) of the respondents had felt about none availability of restroom facilities at their villages and working places; less than half 41 (41%) of them had canteen facilities; less than one third 32 (32%) of them had transport facilities; few 9 (9%) of them had first aid facilities; more than one third 37 (37%) of them have to wear uniform in the working places in the study area.

### **Quality of Work Life**

- ❖ Less than three fourth 72 (72%) of the respondents were good involvement in the job and less than half 46 (46%) of them fairly satisfied with job.

### **Problems and Difficulties in Working Places**

The above table express that the majority 63 (63%) of the respondents felt that uncomfortable with working environment; followed by that less than three fourth 72 (72%), vast majority 87 (87%), more than one fourth 36 (36%), less than one fourth 12 (12%), less than half 45 (45%), 49 (49%), more than half 52 (52%), more than one fourth 32 (32%), less than one fourth 21 (21%), more than one fourth 39 (39%), less than one fourth 12 (12%), 20 (20%), less than half 47 (47%), more than one fourth 37 (37%), less than half 42 (42%), more than one fourth 34 (34%), less than one fourth, 18 (18%) and majority 68 (68%) of them faced the problems and difficulties such as unequally salary to the work, discrimination to provide overtime work, lack of support from colleagues/co-workers, felt insecure, financial needs were fulfilled inadequately, risk of illness and injuries, over crowd and dirties, irritating places, noise and illumination of working places irritated, lack of freedom to take decision for work and implement them, too challenging and trying the limit of ability, lack of opportunities to improve skills, neglect health due to job, salary not received within date and production shortage reflects with salaries, overwork loads, lack of interest to work, lack of appreciation for better work, lack of improvement in wage structures in the working places respectively.

### **Suggestions**

- ❖ The civil society has to be educated with an appropriate humanitarian / social education to treat equally of marginalized among the marginalized i.e. destitute widows to overcome their difficulties on the basis of their plight.
- ❖ The social begins have to be understood that life rituals, customs, and other cultural practices are for the purpose of being togetherness and well – being.
- ❖ The iota of general public has to be changed with their conscious that there would be such destitute widows at their families, and ask themselves how are they going to treat them and accordingly.

- ❖ The state and central may provide and implement various schemes to develop the living conditions of destitute widows.
- ❖ To help widows become economically independent, the government and non-governmental organizations should provide vocational training in a variety of trades and vocational studies.
- ❖ The management shall provide welfare measures such as restroom, first aid, insurance policies and canteen facilities in the working places. It shall try to avoid discrimination practices and formulate for protection of widows and create a favourable environment for these destitute widows to work safe, secure and freely.

## Conclusion

It is evident from the analysis of primary data that it has been concluded that the varying economic situation of the destitute widows and cannot have their days meals without work. The destitute widows have fulfilled their and children's needs through job. While widows are sympathized with for their misfortune, no chance is left unexplored to exploit them. Sometimes they are lured and often become victims. Some destitute widows expressed their feelings of physical depression, acute personal loss, and a sense of rejection because of the loss of their husband. They complained of a lack of position and respect in society and were subjected to unhealthy discussion of their personal lives by their male co-workers. Most destitute widows were pained by indifferent attitude in the working places.

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