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## A decision making pattern of working women in household activities

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### Abstract

A decision making pattern of working women in household activities” was carried in two zone of Kanpur Nagar to access decision making pattern of working women with respect to household activities. Thus selected total number of 120 respondents in which 60 respondents for the study purpose were selected from each zone of Kanpur Nagar. Table reveals that distribution of working women according to age maximum 45.0% of women were being age up to 40 years and above level followed by 34.2%, 13.3%, 7.5% of working women were belong to 30 to 35 years, 35 to 40 years, up to 30 years level in the study area of Kanpur Nagar. Table reveals that distribution of working women according to education maximum 67.5% of women were being educated up to post graduate level followed by 32.5% of working women were belong to graduate level in the study area of Kanpur Nagar.

**Keywords:** Decision making, pattern, working women, household

### Introduction

Working women in India are faced with lot more challenges than their counterparts in the other parts of the world. It has been anticipated that to fulfill multiple roles simultaneously would result in increased stress and hence women are facing competition and challenges at workplace, home and society. Now with their increasing need for getting some income for the family, they have to work all the more harder. They have to take up a full day job plus handle all the household chores that they handled as a homemaker. If they happened to work in a highly pressurized environment, then they will bring home their work and that cuts few more hours of sleep. It is not just about the reduced sleep, but such a lifestyle builds stress. This stress is passed on to the family and frustration level builds up in the family. They have to handle harassment's at their work place, sometimes just over look things to ensure that their job is not jeopardized in anyway. Many Indian families are still living as joint families along with the parents and in-laws. This adds to their stress further because they have to please all the family members of her husband. Anwar *et al.* (2013) <sup>[1]</sup> showed a positive relation between women's autonomy and their role in decision making at household level. There should be balance of power between men and women. There is still a need to enhance women's autonomy and their role in decision making at household for the development in Pakistani society

### Objectives

- 1- TO know the socio – economic profile of working women in house hold activities.
- 2- To study the decision making pattern of working women with respect to house hold activities.

### Research Methodology

To complete the above objectives the research methodology employed and the study was conducted in Kanpur Nagar with two zones during 2016-17. 60-60 respondents were selected from each zone total 120 respondents were selected purposively.

### Results and Discussions

**Table 1:** Distribution of working women according to age

Age group	Frequency	Per cent
Up to 30 years	9	7.5
30 to 35 years	41	34.2
35 to 40 years	16	13.3
40 years and above	54	45.0
Total	120	100.0

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Table 1. reveals that distribution of working women according to age maximum 45.0% of women were being age up to 40 years and above level followed by 34.2%, 13.3%,

7.5% of working women were belong to 30 to 35 years, 35 to 40 years, up to 30 years level in the study area of Kanpur Nagar.

**Table 2:** Distribution of working women according to education

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percent
Graduate	39	32.5
Post graduate	81	67.5
Total	120	100.0

Table 2. reveals that distribution of working women according to education maximum 67.5% of women were being educated up to post graduate level followed by 32.5% of working women were belong to graduate level in the study area of Kanpur Nagar.

### 3. Decision making pattern of working women with respect to household activities

#### (A) Decision related to food and nutrition

**Table 3A:** Decision related to food and nutrition

Sl. No.	Decision related to food and nutrition	Symbol	Respondents only(women)		Husband only		Joint decision	
			F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Sufficient knowledge of balanced diet	A	80	66.7	10	8.3	30	25.0
2.	Menu planning for routine diet	B	110	91.7	-	-	10	8.3
3.	Menu planning for special recipes	C	70	58.3	28	23.4	10	8.3
4.	What item to cook?	D	90	75.0	20	16.7	40	33.4
5.	Saving nutrients while cooking	E	70	58.3	10	8.3	-	-
6.	How many times to give food in a day	F	110	91.7	10	8.3	22	18.3
7.	How much expenditure on food	G	60	50.0	50	41.7	10	8.3
8.	Purchase of fruits and vegetable for daily	H	40	33.3	70	58.4	10	8.3
9.	Health care for sick person	I	60	50.0	50	41.7	10	8.3

F=frequency, %= percent

Table 3.A. depicts major decision taken by respondents and other family members, under the food and nutrition activities how many times to give food in a day respondents' takes decision on menu planning for routine diet and 91.7 per cent and give I priority, 75.0 per cent decision takes on 'What items to cook and give II priority, Next respondents take decision on these sufficient knowledge of balanced diet at 66.7 per cent and give III priority, 58.3 per cent decision takes on 'Menu planning for special recopies and Saving nutrients while cooking and give IV priority, 50.0 per cent decision takes on 'How much expenditure on food and Health care for sick person and give V priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on 'Purchase of fruits and vegetable for daily and give VI priority. While at the same time husband take decision on 'Purchase of fruits and vegetable for daily at 58.4 per cent and give I priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on 'how much expenditure on food and Health care for sick person and give II priority, 23.4 per cent decision takes on 'Menu planning for special recopies and give III priority, 16.7 per cent decision takes on 'What item to cook and give IV priority, 8.3 per cent

decision takes on 'Sufficient knowledge of balanced diet, Saving nutrients while cooking and How many times to give food in a day and give V priority. Both take decision on 'What item to cook 33.4 per cent and give I priority, 25.0 per cent decision takes on 'Sufficient knowledge of balanced diet and give II priority, 18.3 per cent decision takes on 'How many times to give food in a day and give III priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'Menu planning for routine diet, Menu planning for special recopies, How much expenditure on food, Purchase of fruits and vegetable for daily & Health care for sick person and give IV priority.

Hence, it may be concluded "How many times to give food in a day and Menu planning for routine diet" where the main activities as maximum decision taken by respondents (women) at while husband take decision to "Purchase of fruits and vegetable for daily", both takes decision "What item to cook" at 33.4 per cent and give first priority was the decision taken by joint.

#### (B) Decision related to clothing

**Table 3.B:** Distribution of respondents according to their decision for clothing related activities

S. No.	Decision related to clothing	Symbol	Respondents only (women)		Husband only		Joint decision	
			F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Organized plan to buy clothing for children	A	80	66.7	15	12.5	25	20.8
2.	How much expenditure on clothing	B	90	75.0	10	8.3	20	16.7
3.	Selecting shop for children	C	50	41.7	30	25.0	40	33.3
4.	Dress for your children	D	90	75.0	-	-	30	25.0
5.	Brand of clothes	E	100	83.3	-	-	20	16.7
6.	Colour of clothes	F	111	92.5	-	-	9	7.5
7.	Proper care of clothes	G	115	95.8	-	-	5	4.2
8.	Washing of clothes	H	110	91.7	-	-	10	8.3
9.	Ironing of clothes	I	112	93.3	2	1.7	6	5.0
10.	Starching of clothes	J	115	95.8	-	-	5	4.2
11.	Stitching of clothes	K	112	93.3	-	-	8	6.7

Table 3.B. illustrates decision take by respondents (women) and other family members, under the clothing related activities, respondents (women) take decision on 'Proper care of clothes & Starching of clothes at 95.8 and give I priority, 93.3 per cent decisions takes on 'Ironing of clothes and Stitching of clothes and give II priority, 92.5 per cent decision takes on 'Colour of clothes and give III priority, 91.7 per cent decision takes on 'Washing of clothes and give IV priority, 83.3 per cent decision takes on 'Brand of clothes and give V priority, 75.0 per cent decision takes on 'How much expenditure on clothing and dress for your children and give VI priority, 66.7 per cent decision takes on 'Organized plan to buy clothing for children and give VII priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on ' Selecting shop for children and give VIII priority. While at the same time husband take decision on 'Selecting shop for children at 25.0 per cent and give I priority, 12.5 per cent decision takes on 'Organized plan to buy clothing for children and give II priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'How much expenditure on clothing and give III priority, 1.7 per cent decision takes on 'Ironing of clothes and give IV priority. Both (husband and wife) take

decision on 'Selecting shop for children at 33.3 per cent and give I priority, 20.8 per cent decision takes on 'organized plan to buy clothing for children and give II priority, 25.0 per cent decision takes on 'Dress for your children and give III priority, 16.7 per cent decision takes on 'How much expenditure on clothing and Brand of clothes and give IV priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'Washing of clothes and give V priority, 7.5 per cent decision takes on 'Colour of clothes and give VI priority, 6.7 per cent decision takes on 'Stitching of clothes and give VII priority, 5.0 per cent decision takes on 'Ironing of clothes and give VIII priority, 4.2 per cent decision takes on 'Proper care of clothes & Starching of clothes and give IX priority.

Hence, it may be concluded that "Proper care of clothes and starching of clothes" were the main activities as maximum decision taken by respondents (women) while husbands taken decision to "Selecting shop for children", both takes decision to "Selecting shop for children" were the main activity which decision taken by other family members.

### (C) Decision related to children

**Table 3.C:** Distribution of respondents according to their decision for children related activities

Sl. No.	Decision related to children	Symbol	Respondents only(women)		Husband only		Joint decision	
			F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Over all development of children	A	98	81.7	-	-	22	18.3
2.	Child rearing and bearing	B	110	91.7	-	-	10	8.3
3.	Various activities of children	C	80	66.7	-	-	40	33.3
4.	Vaccination of children	D	30	25.0	10	8.3	80	66.7
5.	Who takes decision to send children in play school?	E	20	16.7	50	41.7	50	41.7
6.	Education of children	F	20	16.7	40	33.3	60	50.0
7.	Selection of schools	G	10	8.3	60	50.0	50	41.7
8.	Send to children for school	H	40	33.3	50	41.7	30	25.0
9.	Giving food timely	I	110	91.7	-	-	10	8.3
10.	Taking work of children's	J	80	66.7	5	4.2	35	29.1
11.	Seeing programmes on T.V.	K	90	75.0	-	-	30	25.0
12.	Marriage of children's	L	10	8.3	40	33.3	70	58.4

F=frequency, %= percent

Table 3.C. Shows that major decision taken by respondents (women) and other family members, under the decision related to children activities, respondents (women) take decision on 'Child rearing and bearing & Giving food timely at 91.7 per cent and give I priority, 81.7 per cent decision takes on 'Over all development of children and give II priority, 75.0 per cent decision takes on ' Seeing programmers on T.V. and give III priority, 66.7 per cent decision takes on 'Various activities of children and taking work of children's and give IV priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on 'Send to children for school and give V priority, 25.0 per cent decision takes on ' Vaccination of children and give VI priority, 16.7 per cent decision takes on ' Who takes decision to send children in play school and education of children and give VII priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on ' Selection of schools & Marriage of children's and give VIII priority. While at the same time husband takes decision on 50.0 per cent decision takes on 'Selection of schools and give I priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on 'Who takes decision to send children in play school and send to children for school and give II priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on' Education of children and marriage of children's and give III priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'Vaccination of children and give IV priority, 4.2 per cent decision takes on 'Taking work of children's and give V priority. In the same way both (husband and wife) take decision on' Vaccination of children and give I priority, 58.4 per cent decision takes on 'Marriage of

children's and give II priority, 50.0 per cent decision takes on 'Education of children and give III priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on 'Who takes decision to send children in play school and selection of schools and give IV priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on 'Child rearing and bearing and give V priority, 29.1 per cent decision takes on 'Taking work of children's and give VI priority, 25.0 per cent decision taker on 'Send to children for school and seeing programmes on T.V. and give VII priority, 18.3 per cent decision takes on 'Over all development of children and give VIII priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'Child rearing and bearing and Giving food timely and give IX priority.

Hence, it may be concluded that maximum decision taken by respondents (women) to "Child rearing and bearing and giving food timely" while husband takes decision to "Selection of schools" and "Marriage of children's" was the decision taken by joint.

Sabina Bano (2014) [2] found that the economic contribution and decision making of working women at household level at District Bhimber-AJK. Economic contribution changes the decision making of working women in different activities at household level. Mostly women are contributing in household economy by doing job, business and some other economic activities according to their capacities. Women contributing in their household economy are also playing prominent role in decision making but still there is a need to enhance the overall

decision making power of women in our society as a pledge for their better future.

#### (D) Decision related to home management

**Table 4.D:** Distribution of respondents according to their decision for home management activities

Sl. No.	Decision related to home management	Symbol	Respondents only(women)		Husband only		Joint decision	
			F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Budgeting	A	30	25.0	10	8.3	80	66.7
2.	How to spend your income	B	40	33.3	60	50.0	20	16.7
3.	Planning for expenditure on different item	C	50	41.7	40	33.3	30	25.0
4.	Cleaning of house	D	100	83.3	10	8.3	10	8.3
5.	Home decoration	E	110	91.7	-	-	10	8.3
6.	Taking loans or keeping mortgage	F	50	41.7	50	41.7	20	16.7
7.	Purchasing of house	G	30	25.0	40	33.3	50	41.7
8.	Giving rent	H	20	16.7	60	50.0	40	33.3
9.	Saving and investment	I	20	16.7	80	66.7	20	16.6

F=frequency, %= percent

Table 4.D. Indicates that decision taken by respondents (women) and other family members, under the decision related home, management activities, respondents (women) takes decision on 'Home decoration at 91.7 per cent and give I priority, 83.3 per cent decision takes on' Cleaning of house and give II priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on 'Planning for expenditure on different item & Taking loans or keeping mortgage and give III priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on 'How to spend your income and give IV priority, 25.0 per cent decision takes on' Budgeting and Purchasing of house and give V priority, 16.7 per cent decision takes on 'Giving rent and Saving and investment and give VI priority. While at the same time husband take decision on 'saving and investment at 66.7 per cent and give I priority, 50.0 per cent takes on 'How to spend your income and Giving rent and give II priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on 'Taking loans or keeping mortgage and give III priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on 'Planning for expenditure on different item and Purchasing of house and give IV priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'Budgeting and Cleaning of house and give V priority. In the same way both (husband and wife) take decision on 'Budgeting 66.7 per cent and give I priority, 41.7 per cent decision takes on 'Purchasing of house and give II priority, 33.3 per cent decision takes on 'Giving rent and give III priority, 25.0 per cent decision takes on 'Planning for expenditure on different item and give IV priority, 16.7 per cent decision takes on 'How to spend your income and Taking loans or keeping mortgage and give V priority, 16.6 per cent decision takes on 'Saving and investment and give VI priority, 8.3 per cent decision takes on 'Cleaning of house and Home decoration and give VII priority.

Hence it may be concluded that maximum decision taken by respondents (women) to "Home decoration", husband takes decision to "saving and investment", both takes decision to "Budgeting" and cleaning house and home decoration "was the decision taken by other family joint".

#### Conclusion

Decision making is an integral part of modern management. Essentially, rational or sound decision making is takes primary function of management. Every person takes hundreds and hundreds of decision subconsciously or consciously making it as they determine household activities. A decision can be defined as a course of action purposely chosen from a set of alternatives to achieve household activity or goals. Decision making process is continuous and indispensable component of managing any organization or business activities. Decisions are made to sustain the all

activities related to household. Decision making is a process of selecting the best among the different alternatives. It is the act of making a choice. There are so many alternatives found in the organization and departments. Decision making is defined as the selection of choice of one best alternative. Before making decisions all alternatives should be evaluated from which advantages and disadvantages are known. It helps to make the best decisions. It is also one of the important functions of management. Without other management functions such as planning, organizing, directing, controlling, staffing can't be conducted because in this managerial functions decision is very important.

#### Recommendations and suggestions

1. It is essential to take comprehensive programs to enhance women's educational status.
2. Women empowerment does not signify to increase the numbers of women in decision making position. There should be measures to improve new projects, identifying problems and providing suggestion towards effective solution.
3. Women should be given chances in decision making process, including participatory personnel management and budget management.
4. Child care is another duty that women employees cannot neglect, but if they are economically settled, then can hand over this duty toward local babysitting centers, so that they can spare more time to educate them and move freely than before.
5. The educated women employees working at higher level post should take active part in informal organization network. They should show their interest in accepting new challenges and opportunities. This can help them to create self development and growth.

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