

A STUDY OF PARTICIPATION IN HOUSE HOLD ACTIVITIES BY ADOLESCENT GIRLS**Abha Khetarpal**

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to know the type and extent of participation of Adolescent girls in the household activities. The study was conducted in Yamunanagar distt. A random sample of 30 young girls each from school and college of rural and urban area were selected. Thus, the total sample comprised of 120 respondents i.e. 60 each from rural and urban area. An interview schedule was used for the collection of data. The findings revealed that cleaning of vegetable cutting/chopping and chapatti making were the activities in which rural as well as urban girls participated actively. In addition to these activities meal serving (78.33% and 93.33%) followed by dishwashing (81.66% and 71.66%), meal preparation (85.00% and 88.33%) were some of the other favourite activities among rural and urban young girls respectively. In all, rural girls comparatively spent more time on all the household activities. Average time spent on house cleaning (.41, 0.79 hrs/day) clothing care (0.93 and 0.08 hrs/day) and animal/pet care (0.44 and 0.00 hrs/day) by rural and urban females depicts a significant difference. The major reason for participation by young females in various household activities was - interest, family norms and helping their mothers. Further girls from large families spent more time on household activities than the girls from small families.

Key words—Adolescent girls, household activities, rural, urban, family norms**INTRODUCTION**

The role of women at home and outside has changed due to the changing scenario of social system. Nuclear families are replacing the joint family system. It is getting difficult to perform all household activities by the homemaker single handedly whenever she works outside the home. This necessitates the participation of other family members particularly the teenaged girls (12 year - 19 years) in house-hold activities. the young girls participate in such activities as dishwashing, chapatti making, meal preparation, meal serving, house-cleaning, clothing care, care of family members etc. The family background income size of family, type of family, and the occupation of the family influence their participation to a great extent (Batish, Miglani 1987).

Keeping in view the importance of subject, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives:-

- The know the extent of participation, in house hold activities by adolescent girls
- To investigate the time spent in house hold activities by adolescent girls
- Reasons for participation by adolescent girls of rural and urban families in house hold activities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted purposively in two schools and two colleges situated each in rural and urban areas of Yamunanagar district. A random sample of 30 students each from school and college located in rural as well as 30 student each from school and college located in urban area were selected randomly. Total sample comprised of 120 students. All the respondents were adolescent girls (13 years to 19 years). The data were collected through an interview schedule and was statistically analyzed. The schedule for general as well as specific information was prepared for the data collection. The general information included type and size of family, income, education and occupation of the family. The specific information on the other hand deals with the different type of activities performed by adolescent girls.

Socio-personal characteristics

Maximum number (86.66%) of school and college going teenaged girls of rural area were from joint family system having more than five members (66.66%) with farming as the main occupation of the family. Majority of the respondents were from middle income group (50000-1 lakh per year). On the other hand majority of urban teenaged girls (76.00%) were from the nuclear type families (70.00%) with less than five members, annual income ranging from 50000 to 1 lakh per year. Occupation of the family was mainly service.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in Table 1 indicate that almost all the rural girls (85.00%) participated in meal preparation activities irrespective of their school and college categories, very close to meal preparation comes dish-washing (81.66%), clothing - care (78.3%) and meal serving (78.3%). On the other hand in urban area maximum number of girls from school and college participated in meal serving (93.33%) activities followed by meal preparation (88.33%) dish washing (71.6%) and clothing-care by urban adolescent girls in all other household activities, particularly looking after the family members and animal/pet care. It is clear from the table that more number of rural adolescent girls participated in household activities than the urban adolescent girls irrespective of their school and college categories.

Table-1

Participation of rural and urban adolescent girls in household activities

Activity/Area	Rural		Total n = 60	Urban		Total n = 60
	School n = 30	College n = 30		School n = 30	College n = 30	
Meal Serving	24	23	47	28	28	56
	(80.00)	(76.66)	(78.33)	(93.33)	(93.33)	(93.33)
Personal Care	27	27	54	26	28	54
	(90.00)	(90.00)	(90.00)	(86.66)	(93.33)	(90.00)
Meal Preparation	27	27	51	25	28	53
	(80.00)	(90.00)	(85.00)	(83.33)	(93.33)	(88.33)
Dish Washing	25	24	49	24	19	43

	(83.33)	(80.00)	(81.66)	(80.00)	(63.33)	(71.66)
Clothing Care	24	23	47	22	20	42
	(80.00)	(76.66)	(78.33)	(73.33)	(33.33)	(70.00)
House Cleaning	25	26	51	24	16	40
	(83.33)	(86.66)	(85.00)	(80.00)	(53.33)	(66.66)
Care of family members	4	4	8	1	1	2
	(13.33)	(13.33)	(13.33)	(3.33)	(3.33)	(3.33)
Animal/pet care	5	5	10	1	1	2
	(16.66)	(16.66)	(16.66)	(3.33)	(3.33)	(3.33)

Table-2

Average time spent on household activities (hrs/day) by rural and urban adolescent girls

Activity /Area	School Going			College Going		
	Rural	Urban	T-value	Rural	Urban	T-value
Meal Preparation	1.19	0.82	4.99*	1.10	0.83	3.25*
Meal Serving	1.00	0.24	3.71*	0.41	0.34	1.69
Dish Washing	0.32	0.32	0.00	0.38	0.18	4.30
House Cleaning	1.41	0.79	10.35**	1.69	0.80	6.83*
Clothing Care	0.93	0.98	0.54	0.95	0.46	5.04*
Care of family members	0.4	0.00	5.32*	0.48	0.00	4.33*
Animal/pet care	0.44	0.00	5.32*	0.48	0.00	4.33*

* Significant at 1% level

** Significant at 5% level.

Table-3

Preparation	Meal Serving		Dish Washing		House Cleaning		Clothing Care		Care of family members		Animal/ pet care		Personal Care	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
30 (50.00)	49 (81.66)	41 (68.33)	40 (66.66)	22 (36.66)	48 (80.00)	33 (55.00)	48 (80.00)	30 (50.00)	48 (80.00)	7 (11.66)	28 (46.66)	6 (10.00)	27 (45.00)	50 (83.33)
15 (25.00)	3 (5.00)	14 (23.33)	3 (5.00)	25 (43.33)	1 (1.66)	12 (20.00)	6 (10.00)	12 (20.00)	4 (6.66)	1 (1.66)	3 (5.00)	-	-	-
15 (25.00)	1 (1.66)	-	6 (10.00)	8 (13.33)	8 (13.33)	15 (25.00)	4 (6.66)	12 (20.00)	5 (8.33)	-	1 (1.66)	-	2 (3.33)	9 (15.00)
-	7 (11.66)	5 (8.33)	11 (18.33)	4 (6.66)	3 (5.00)	-	2 (3.33)	6 (10.00)	3 (5.00)	52 (86.66)	28 (46.66)	54 (90.00)	31 (51.66)	1 (1.66)
60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)

Reason for participation in household activities by rural and urban adolescent girls

* Multiple reasons

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage

Time spent on household activities

The data in Table 2 reveals that there was a significant difference in the time spent on various household activities by rural school going girls. According to the table the rural school going teenaged girls spent significantly more time on home-cleaning (1.41 hrs/day) followed by meal preparation (1.19 hrs/day) care of family members, animal/pet care (0.44%) and dish washing (0.32 hrs/day). On the other hand urban school and college going teenaged girls spent time on clothing care (0.98%) followed by meal preparation (0.82% hrs/day) house cleaning (0.79 hrs/day) dishwashing (0.32%) meal serving (0.24%).

This table further reveals that the rural school and college going adolescent girls spent significantly more time on household activities. They spent maximum time on house cleaning (1.69 hrs/day). This followed by meal preparation (1.10 hrs/day), clothing care (0.95 hrs/day), care of family members and animal/ pet care (0.48 hrs/day each), meal serving (0.41 hrs/day) and dish washing (0.38 hrs/day). On the other hand urban college going adolescent girls spent maximum time on meal preparation (0.83 hrs/day) followed by home cleaning (0.80 hrs/day) clothing care (0.46 hrs/day) meal serving (0.34 hrs/day) and dish washing (0.18 hrs/day). On an average no time was spent on care of family members and animal/pet care activities by the urban college going teenaged girls.

Reasons for participation

The reasons for participation included self interest, helping their mothers and also family values. Various activities which the adolescents performed were meal preparation, meal serving, dish washing, house cleaning, clothing care, care of family members animal/pet care and personal care.

Data in Table 3 reveal that maximum number of rural and urban girls were involved due to their self-interest in meal preparation (88.33% and 50.00%) meal serving (81.66% and 68.33%) respectively followed by home-cleaning (80.00 and 55.00%), dishwashing (66.66 and 36.66%), clothing care (80.00 and 50.00%), animal/pet care (46.66 and 10.00%).

The other reasons i.e. helping the mother attracted more urban than rural girls. Majority of the girls helped their mothers in dish-washing (43.33% and 5.00%) followed by meal preparation (25.00% and 3.33%) meal serving (23.33% and 5.00%) house cleaning (20.00% and 1.66%) clothing care (20.00% and 10.00%) respectively by urban and rural girls.

Family norms was the other reason with respect to meal serving, house cleaning, clothing care and dish washing activities with both rural and urban young females. But on the whole the personal interest of the adolescent girls was the major reason for participation by both rural and urban young girls irrespective of their school and college categories.

CONCLUSION

Rural females participated more in house hold activities but meal preparation and meal serving were two major activities performed by all the respondent equally well. Interest in household activities was the major reason for participation by the young females.

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